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Jason Casolari (G6), Adrienne
McKee (G3)



Triggerfish (Band): Jake Jaffe
(G5, MCB), Friso Postma
(Post-doc), Ross Fredenburg

[Applying for Pre-Doctoral Fellowships](#)

Peggy Stolt

Back in my G1 days, I walked into lab one morning to find an application for an NSF pre-doctoral fellowship placed conspicuously on my desk. When there was an HHMI application there the next day, I took the hint. Although I had applied unsuccessfully for these fellowships during my senior year in college, I figured it was worth another shot. After working through the maze of requesting transcripts, asking for recommendations, and putting together a research proposal, I was lucky enough to be awarded an NSF fellowship.

[The BBS Curriculum: Change Over Time](#)

Tim Cherry

(G4), Nate Hillson (G5,
Biophysics), Katie Auld (G5),
Andy Goodman (G4)



Mike Malecki (G3), Chris
Dimitri (G4), Patrick Everley
(G3)



Food Table



The BBS Community on the
Harvard Medical School Quad

A number of changes are coming to the BBS curriculum for the 2003-04 academic year. These include changes of course leadership, such as Johannes Walter's replacement of Steve Buratowski as course director for BCMP 200 and Michael Eck taking over BCMP 201 from Tom Ellenberger. Dan Finley now becomes the sole director for Cell Biology 201, as Rong Li will be busy with "Unsolved Mysteries in Cell Biology". Co-taught with Tim Mitchison, this new quarter course is offered by the Cell Biology Department. Dr. Li describes "Unsolved Mysteries" as "suitable for students second-year or above, and first-year students with a strong background in cell biology."

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[Out & About: Apple Picking](#)

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Faculty Profiles:

[Tom Ellenberger](#) | [Bruce Zetter](#)

Bulletin Announcements

Recent BBS Student Publications:

Gozani O, Karuman P, Jones DR, Ivanov D, **Cha J** (G2), Lugovskoy AA, Baird CL, Zhu H, Field SJ, Lessnick SL, Villasenor J, Mehrotra B, Chen J, Rao VR, Brugge JS, Ferguson CG, Payrastre B, Myszka DG, Cantley LC, Wagner G, Divecha N, Prestwich GD, Yuan J. The PHD finger of the chromatin-associated protein ING2 functions as a nuclear phosphoinositide receptor. 2003. Cell 114(1):99-111.

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Letter to the Readers

Dear Readers,

One of the objectives of the BBS Bulletin is to encourage open and sustained discussion within the BBS community. We feel this goal would be facilitated by a forum within the newsletter for direct communication among its readers and editors.

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King OD, **Lee JC**, Dudley AM, **Janse DM**, Church GM, Roth FP. Predicting phenotype from patterns of annotation. 2003. Bioinformatics Suppl 1:I183-I189.

Martinez MC, Ochiishi T, **Majewski M**, Kosik KS. Dual regulation of neuronal morphogenesis by a d-catenin-cortactin complex and Rho. 2003. J Cell Biol. 162(1):99-111.

Zhai Q, **Wang J** (G3), Kim A, Liu Q, Watts R, Hoopfer E, Mitchison T, Luo L, He Z. Involvement of the ubiquitin-proteasome system in the early stages of wallerian

degeneration. 2003. Neuron 39(2):217-25.

Announcements:

Jesse Boehm (G3) is bike riding 115 miles in one day in the Pan-Mass Challenge for Dana-Farber on Aug 2nd. More than 20 G3s contributed over \$500 to help him reach his \$1500 fundraising goal!

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The BBS Curriculum: Change Over Time

Tim Cherry

A number of changes are coming to the BBS curriculum for the 2003-04 academic year. These include changes of course leadership, such as Johannes Walter's replacement of Steve Buratowski as course director for BCMP 200 and Michael Eck taking over BCMP 201 from Tom Ellenberger. Dan Finley now becomes the sole director for Cell Biology 201, as Rong Li will be busy with "Unsolved Mysteries in Cell Biology". Co-taught with Tim Mitchison, this new quarter course is offered by the Cell Biology Department. Dr. Li describes "Unsolved Mysteries" as "suitable for students second-year or above, and first-year students with a strong background in cell biology."

Perennial changes include new Micro 230 papers and some new faculty for discussion sections. BCMP 200 will see a change in lecturing faculty, including the loss of Anindya Dutta, who recently moved to the University of Virginia. Johannes Walter will take over his lectures, explaining the mechanistic "goodies" of DNA replication to interested students. Sadly, future G1's, in missing Dutta, will also miss his insight into how much DNA helicase resembles a fez hat. Kami Ahmed takes Jeff Parvin's place as a BCMP 200 discussion leader. A Micro 230 format innovation will better use the web to circulate PDF files of papers rather than black and white hard copies, as past students often re-

printed them in color. The papers and other resources related to Micro 230 will be available at <http://www.courses.fas.harvard.edu/~molbio230/> .

In the absence of large changes to the curriculum this year, the mechanisms for change are still alive and well. And it is important for the BBS students and faculty to understand how change comes about. Changes in the BBS courses come from all levels, including the curriculum committee. This committee has one representative from each of the 5 BBS-affiliated research departments. These representatives change over the years, although Program Director Connie Cepko always sits on the panel. The curriculum committee considers ideas for strengthening the curriculum and then makes specific recommendations to the departments and course heads. One long-standing committee member is Bob Kingston of the Genetics and Molecular Biology Departments. "The mission of the committee and the curriculum," Kingston said, "is to teach students how to think independently, to discover new information, and to bring about a change in mindset where students were recipients of knowledge in their previous educations to where they are dispensers of information. The graduate curriculum is meant to help students generate a body of knowledge while they are familiarizing themselves with existing knowledge." "It is a struggle," Kingston added "to teach the basic facts, or the foundation of knowledge that students need, while at the same time teaching students how to be independent." Micro 230 is one course designed to accomplish this mandate. To help the curriculum fit the needs of students, the committee works with each of the departments and the course directors, advising them through its recommendations. Alternatively, new courses generally arise from faculty motivated by a need unmet by existing courses.

"An important aspect of the curriculum," according to Kingston, "is that it evolves from the community and is taught by the community." By 1994, the needs had exceeded the bounds of the existing Tri-Department (Genetics, Biochemistry and Microbiology) and CDB (Cell and Developmental) graduate programs. The BBS program evolved out of the community's desire for a wider and more integrative program.

"We're all interested in learning," said Kingston, "and teaching is part of learning." The curriculum committee makes its recommendations largely based on student feedback in the form of written course evaluations, as well as the student feedback meeting, which most recently met near the end of the spring term. Kingston noted that both forms of feedback were very important and that they fulfill different, but complementary, roles. "The faculty actually read the evaluations," Kingston stressed. Kingston and Kristina Roberts (G2), a BBS student who participated in the student feedback meeting, both observed that certain student-derived recommendations made verbally could not have been communicated in the written course evaluations. Roberts explained that it was easier to push for specific changes in specific courses at the meeting, because the 15 or so students who attended formed a collective voice. This unanimity is not always apparent in the written evaluations because each student has his or her own priorities.

The BBS curriculum will no doubt continue to evolve and adapt to the needs of the community in the future just as it has in the past. Pressures from the University at large may also bring about substantial changes to the program. The curriculum, however, should remain driven by students and faculty, striving to create a productive academic environment.

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Faculty Profiles:

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Tom Ellenberger

Professor of Biological Chemistry and Molecular
Pharmacology
By: Allen Dodson

Tom Ellenberger

Research Interest: Using X-Ray crystallography and biochemical methods to study the enzymatic mechanisms of DNA replication, repair, and recombination. His laboratory focuses on understanding how proteins recognize replication forks, DNA damage, recombination junctions, and other types of non-sequence-specific distortions in DNA structure.

Beginnings: As a youth in a small Iowa town, Ellenberger was fascinated with machines. He enjoyed tinkering with motors and other mechanical things. He was originally drawn to biology because he felt that living organisms are the most fascinating machines. Ellenberger attended a six-year undergraduate/veterinary program at Iowa State, completing his DVM and becoming licensed as a veterinarian. He describes veterinary school as a fascinating, hands-on learning experience, isort of a service

manual for mammalian organisms, where students got to participate in cases, farm calls, and surgery while gaining a broad exposure to organismal level biology, physiology and pathogenesis.

Graduate School and Beyond: Inspired by work done by the National Animal Disease Lab in Ames, Iowa, Ellenberger decided he wanted to do research, rather than practice veterinary medicine. He decided to attend graduate school, in order to learn more about molecular approaches. He came to Harvard Medical School, and did his graduate work in the Dept of Pharmacology (now part of BCMP), in the lab of Stephen Beverley. Keeping with his original interest in infectious diseases of animals, Ellenberger's thesis focused on gene amplification and multiple drug resistance in the protozoan parasite *Leishmania*. Following his graduate studies, he decided to learn about X-Ray crystallography with the aim of using this technique to study possible drug targets, and did a post-doc in Steve Harrison's lab at Harvard's Cambridge campus. Although he interviewed for faculty positions in different parts of the country, Ellenberger was drawn back to BCMP by its newly established structural biology group.

Outside Activities: Ellenberger enjoys living in Boston. He values its diversity and culture, but feels the community is still small enough to be livable. Reviving his childhood interest, Ellenberger has recently resumed his hobby of tinkering with sports cars. He finds working on cars relaxing, and jokes that he subscribes to nearly every car magazine that has been published. He also has a subscription to *Bird Talk* magazine, an interest he shares with his wife who is also a veterinarian. They have had pet birds for nearly 20 years, and currently own four parrots. Some of Ellenberger's favorite trips include horseback excursions into the Gila Wilderness Area in New Mexico, Banff National Park north of the border in Alberta, and along Ireland's Connemara Peninsula.

Favorite Historical Figure: Abraham Lincoln, whom he admires for rising from humble beginnings to become an international figure dedicated to serving the public interest during a period of great national strife.



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NSF grants are available to all first and second year science graduate students (but not to MD/PhD students) and supply 3 years of funding that can be used over a 5-year period. Applications are due in early November. <http://www.nsf.gov/grfp>

National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate

Fellowship: These fellowships are open to first and second year graduate students, including MD/PhD students. Funding is provided for 3 years. The application deadline is in early January. <http://www.asee.org/ndseg>

Department of Defense (DoD) Fellowship: These fellowships are for students working on breast cancer through the Breast Cancer Research Program. <http://cdmrp.army.mil/funding/03bcrp.htm>

National Research Service Award (NRSA): Several different awards are available from the NIH for students at any stage in graduate school through the Kirchstein-NRSA program. Awards are targeted for MD/PhD students, underrepresented minorities, students with disabilities, or students whose research involves deafness/communication

disorders (NIDCD), alcoholism (NIAA), drug abuse (NIDA), neurological disorders (NINDS), or mental health (NIMH). Funding is available for up to 5 years. There are 3 application cycles with deadlines in April, August, or December. <http://grants1.nih.gov/training/nrsa.htm#fellowships>

Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral Fellowship: These awards are intended for underrepresented minority students in their first or second year of graduate study. Three years of support are provided, to be used over a 5-year span. The application deadline is in late November. <http://www7.nationalacademies.org/fellowships/fordpredoc.html>

Note: The Howard Hughes Medical Institute pre-doctoral fellowship is being phased out and is no longer available to new applicants.

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The winery and orchards are about a 40 minute drive from Boston. If you go at the right time of year you can also get in your requisite fall foliage viewing - and it is lovely. The orchards are open every day for picking from 11am to 5pm. Through September you can find peaches (18 varieties!), red raspberries, plums and blackberries. Starting in September and running through late October are a succession of different apple varieties. The orchards contain 104 varieties, conveniently listed in alphabetical order on the winery website. These include the old favorites like Macintosh and Cortland and such "heirloom varieties" and oddballs as Belle de Boskoop, Hubbardston Nonesuch, and Fillbarrel.

At the winery, begin your apple odyssey by purchasing a bag from the store. The prices are \$8 for a peck-sized bag (holds about 10-12 pounds of apples) and \$13 for a half-bushel bag (20-24 pounds). Now go outside and arm yourself with one of the long-range apple-plucking tools and hit those trees!

For the more indoor-inclined, Nashoba Valley Winery also produces hard cider and 22 different non-grape wines, all of which can be tasted for free in their shop! For \$3 you can take a tour of their 3-room wine-making facility, complete with more tasting and a complementary wine glass. It may be even more fun to pick your fruit *after* you take the tour.

If you drive around in the vicinity of the winery, you can find shops selling cider donuts, scented candles, maple syrup products and decorative dried corn. In short, the Nashoba Valley Winery experience lacks for nothing, and is a serious step up from my elementary school outings.

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Applying for Pre-Doctoral Fellowships

Peggy Stolt

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Now, you are probably thinking, "Why should I go to the trouble of getting outside funding when Harvard and my advisor are already paying me?" There are definite advantages to having an outside fellowship. First, your advisor will be very happy since having a fellowship frees up grant money. In addition, if the stipend rate for your fellowship exceeds the Harvard rate, the extra money is yours to keep; if it is lower you will be supplemented up to the Harvard rate. Also, many fellowships come with an educational allowance; if not, Harvard (or your advisor) will often give you a percentage of your fellowship money to cover computer or other educational costs. And then there is all the glamour and prestige! Being awarded a competitive fellowship will strengthen your CV and may aid your search

for a post-doc or other job later on.

There are many different funding opportunities. A summary of several general kinds of fellowships can be found at the end of this article. In addition to these, there may be funding targeted to your specific field. For example, the American Heart Association offers fellowships for graduate students working on cardiovascular disease or related research. There are also some organizations that offer one-year dissertation-writing fellowships for upper year students. To find other funding opportunities, one great resource to use is GrantsNet (www.grantsnet.org), a database set up by the HHMI and AAAS where you can search for funding for which you are eligible. Most of these fellowships do require that you are a U.S. citizen, but even if you are not, it may be worth giving GrantsNet a try.

Once you find fellowships to apply for, what is the best strategy for success? Applying for a fellowship is not too different from applying for graduate school. The biggest difference is that most, if not all, of these fellowships require you to write a sample research proposal, and this an important part of the application. Some of the applications, such as the NRSA, require a detailed proposal complete with specific aims, etc, while others, such as the NSF and DoD fellowships, ask for a one or two page summary of a proposed research project. If you are an upper-year student applying for an NRSA-style fellowship, you can use your TAC proposal as a starting point. For younger students, you do not need a well-defined thesis project if you are applying for grants having the NSF type of format. The key is that you write a well-defined and cohesive research proposal, even if it centers on your rotation project. Ask upper year students, post-docs, or your advisor to read and critique your proposal.

Next, choose appropriate people to write recommendations for you. If possible, ask faculty here at Harvard who know you well, instead of relying on people you worked for previously. Obviously, it is important that all parts of your application are in before the deadline, so be sure to request recommendations early (at least one month before the deadline, but the earlier the better) so that the writers have adequate time to complete your request. The same is true



for transcript and test score requests, which can often take several weeks. Starting early will ensure that your application is not disregarded because it is incomplete.

In the end, even if you do not obtain a fellowship, you definitely will not lose anything by trying. You will have gotten some valuable practice in proposal writing and critical thinking - skills that will make the rest of your work as a grad student that much easier.

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Letter to the Readers

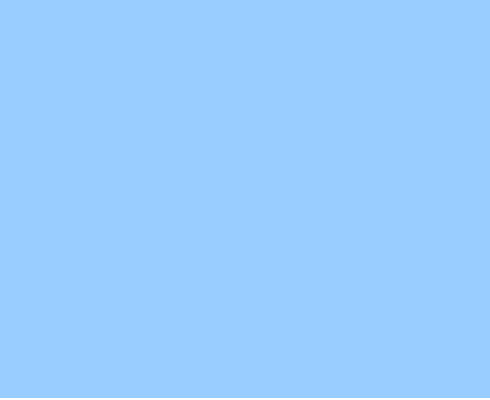
Dear Readers,

One of the objectives of the BBS Bulletin is to encourage open and sustained discussion within the BBS community. We feel this goal would be facilitated by a forum within the newsletter for direct communication among its readers and editors.

We at the Bulletin invite all students, faculty, and staff, to write to us at bbsbulletin@student.hms.harvard.edu and voice your opinions.

Raise any issues you feel are important, whether of academic, professional, or even local interest. E-mail us your concerns about the graduate program. Let us know your thoughts about Bulletin articles, or offer suggestions as to how the Bulletin can be improved. If you think something is important, interesting, neglected, strange, controversial, outrageous, or just plain neat, then let us, and the broader BBS community, know about it.

All letters will be read and considered. Your comments and suggestions will greatly help us improve the Bulletin to reflect readers' interests and concerns. Additionally, selected letters will be published in a new section entitled



"Letters to the Editor". We hope this will encourage communication with the Bulletin staff and, more importantly, with the program as a whole.

We hope to hear from you.

Editorial Staff

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Bruce Zetter

Professor of Cell Biology and Surgery

By: Y. Raymond Shao (G4)

Bruce Zetter

Research Interest: The basic biology and clinical relevance of tumor metastasis and tumor progression.

Beginnings: Zetter was born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. His parents encouraged he and his sister to take public speaking, acting, and debating, and Zetter did a lot of acting in high school. During the summers, he worked as a lifeguard at a city swimming pool. Zetter went to college at Brandeis and majored in anthropology, because he was interested in evolution and he wanted to search for the earliest fossils of humans. At that time, Brandeis was a center for the protest movement during the Vietnam War. After college, Zetter went from protesting the war to serving in the army because of his precarious draft status. He was trained as medic in the army reserves for six months. After that experience, he worked for another half a year as a paramedic, driving an ambulance in Boston. That experience convinced him that he did not want to be a

physician.

Graduate School and Beyond: Zetter was taking some pre-veterinary courses at the University of Rhode Island when he first met his future graduate advisor Paul Cohen. He started working in Cohen's lab, and after the first week, Zetter knew that experimental science was what he wanted to do. As a graduate student in the Cohen lab, Zetter used an *in vitro* translation system to try to understand post-transcriptional control of protein synthesis in bacteriophage. After graduate school, Zetter did his first post-doc with John Buchanan at MIT, where he studied the role of proteases in stimulating cell growth and cell invasion. Zetter then headed to California to work with Denis Gospodarowicz, who had just discovered and named Fibroblast Growth Factor (FGF). There he studied the adhesion and growth control of endothelial cells. Inspired by Judah Folkman's angiogenesis theory, and his presence in Boston, he started his own lab at Children's hospital to work on angiogenesis. He later began to work on tumor metastasis, which remains his principal research focus today.

Outside Activities: Zetter spends a lot of time with his three children. He goes to his daughter's horse shows, and coaches his children's basketball and soccer teams. He likes fishing, and many evenings he can be found fishing with his children in the lake near his house in Wayland. This summer his family went out to Nantucket on a boat fishing trip and caught striped bass and blue fish and had a big feast from the fish they caught. Zetter enjoys fine wines, and has an extensive wine collection. Zetter has been working on expanding his music horizons by accompanying his children to concerts with groups such as "Good Charlotte" and "New Found Glory." To satisfy his own musical taste, he is going to see Bruce Springsteen this summer.

What was his favorite journey? He spent a week in a native village in Fiji on his honeymoon where he had to participate in Kava drinking ceremonies.

Which historical figures does he most admire ? Leonardo da Vinci, because he never limited his imagination.



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